

-MEASURES FOR STABILIZING COASTAL DUNES-

PLANTING GUIDE

**'FLAGEO' Marshhay cordgrass** (*Spartina patens*)

**Description:** Perennial, warm season grass with erect stems, mostly less than 40 inches tall. It spreads by long slender rhizomes. Leaves are less than 1/8-inch wide and are sometimes flat, but usually roll inward from the edges with the upper surface inside. There are 2 to 7 spikes on the seedhead. These 3/4- to 2-inch spikes are born against or away from the stem.

**- Native Habitat and Range:** Salt marshes and sandy meadows from Quebec, Canada to Florida and Texas, and saline marshes inland from New York to Michigan.

**- Conservation Use:** Saltmeadow cordgrass is used for coastal erosion control in backdune areas, along tidal river banks, and on salt marshes above the high tide line. Inland uses include stabilizing waterways, gullies, roadsides, and minespoil and saline oil seep areas. The 'salt hay' is used as a mulch and fed to cattle.

**- Site Preparation:** None required, but removal of trash on tidal areas will prevent burial of plants.

**- Plant Material:** Potted plants or bare root stock are available commercially and from vigorous stands. Use transplants that have 5 to 10 stems each.

**- Time of Planting:** Late winter and early spring, and at the beginning of the rainy season in Florida.

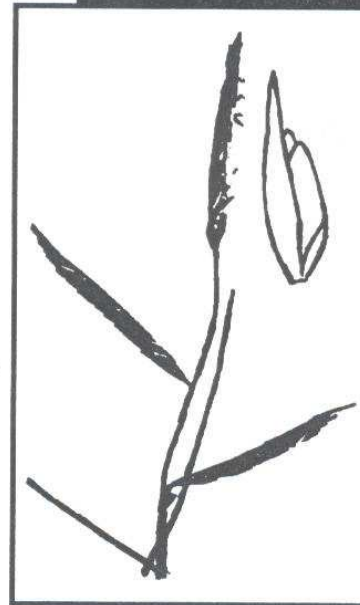
**- Spacing:** Place plants 12 to 24 inches apart, depending on severity of site.

**- Depth:** Plant 4 to 8 inches, or deeper, in moist soil.

**- Fertilizer:** On critical area plantings, place one ounce of slow release fertilizer such as \*Osmocote per plant at planting, or apply 200 to 300 pounds of 10-10-10 per acre several weeks after planting. Apply 200 to 300 pounds of 10-10-10 per acre annually in June until the stand fills in the spacing. Do not fertilize rangeland plantings.

**- Maintenance:** Minimize foot traffic and remove debris from planting.

\* Other commercial fertilizers of the same analysis and with a slow release formulation may also be used.



*Marshhay cordgrass*